



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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# PRESS RELEASE

## **USAID launch National Internship and Job Placement Program**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the USAID Competitiveness Project with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, and international experts, launched the National Internship and Job Placement Program, and the Internship and Job placement web portal.

"USAID believes workforce development is a critical pre-requisite for the economic development and global competitiveness of Macedonia, and therefore we support workforce development initiatives," said USAID Mission Director Michael Fritz. "One of those initiatives is the National Internship and Job Placement Program that will create about 500 internships for students and job seekers in the first year of implementation. We are expecting half of those internships to lead to new job placements."

"Internships help stakeholders in the labor market to work together more closely. Through internships students improve their skills while they are still studying, employers have a channel for recruiting and keeping talent, and educational institutions receive feedback about labor needs, , giving them opportunity to offer better programs in the future" – said Gergana Rakovska, Director of Business Foundation for Education, Bulgaria and a speaker at the conference.

The National Internship and Job Placement Portal is a web based application that will offer free registration for students and unemployed searching for internships and jobs, and for companies seeking interns and skilled employees. This portal, [www.mojakariera.com.mk](http://www.mojakariera.com.mk) will be available in three languages and will provide an efficient, , low cost, widely accessible and easy-to use matchmaking tool for students and job seekers and companies.

USAID Competitiveness Project expects that in the first year of the National Internship and Job Placement Program more then 3,000 students and job seekers will register and actively use the services of the Portal in searching for internships and /or jobs. The goal of the Program is to complete over 500 internships with at least half leading to permanent jobs. In addition over 250 companies are expected to register and use the Portal as a cost effective tool for recruiting skilled employees.

### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.